



OFFICE OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION
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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Approved: **April 13, 2022**

Meeting Date: **March 30, 2022**

Scheduled Agenda Items:

1. Groton Dunstable Youth Softball League Application Fee Discussion

Meeting Minutes.

1. This was a meeting of the Recreation Commissioners.
 - a. Attending the meeting for the Recreation Commission and a quorum being present: Tiffany Naughton, Brian Locapo, Jeffery Hastings, and Dawn Dorr.
Not present: Charlie Lippman.
 - b. Others Attending: Don Barry President of GDYSB, David Greenwood, and Kieran Meehan.
2. The meeting came to order at 6:03 PM.

This was a meeting between the Dunstable Recreation Committee and representatives from the Groton Dunstable Youth Softball League (GDYSB). GDYSB requested a meeting to discuss the field use fee was determined at the March 8, 2022 meeting. The fee in question was for their league to use the softball field at Larter Field, and if desired the baseball field at Swallow Union from April 2022 through August 2022.

David Greenwood requested that Recreation continue to charge zero fees as had been the history in 2019 and 2020. He provided meeting minutes from 2018 where the discussion then had been that in order to promote use on the fields at Larter, GDYSB would maintain the fields and in return they would have no fee for their use. Mr. Greenwood's understanding was this plan was to stay in place perpetually.

Tiffany Naughton explained last year's discussion with the President of the Association Mike Kinnon (who no longer serves as the president but remains on the board) was to charge a fee to the association. Initial discussions were for a fee of \$500, but GDYSB did not agree to the fee and wished to revisit the discussion at the end of the season in the Summer of 2021. No further contact was received by Recreation from GDYSB until their desires to build/purchase additional storage at Larter Field were brought up at the joint January 11, 2022 meeting.

Don Barry requested history and explanation as he is new to his position with GDYSB. He was understanding that it takes funding to provide enhancements to the park, but wanted clarification on how the boards came to determine the fee. Brian Locapo explained the history of fee structure for the fields, and how the board came to the decision of \$1,000 per field at the March 8th meeting. He also explained what field use fees are for, which is to enhance the town properties and provide recreation without having to raise property taxes. The board chose to take no action to adjust the field use fee. Recreation did agree to extend the season for Softball this year from August through the end of October 2022. This will allow the organization to get more use on the field, and also possibly gain some financial footing by being able to charge their members fees for the fall.

Discussion regarding holding the fee at \$1,000 for a set time period was held between board members. This would allow GDYSB a sense of security for their financial planning. Members were agreeable, but no vote was taken.

David Greenwood requested for Softball to be able to offer advertising at Larter Field as a way to earn money for the league. Tiffany Naughton advised, and was supported by Kieran Meehan that although the deed does not explicitly state it, the Larter family did not want any advertising done at Larter Field.

3. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Naughton
Recreation Commissioner